

1 1. A method of providing user options in operation of a video system,
2 comprising:

3 displaying an image on a display screen, the image being associated with
4 a current one of a plurality of operational contexts;

5 detecting actuation of a pop-up option palette control; and

6 upon detecting actuation of the pop-up option palette control, overlaying the
7 image on the display screen with a pop-up option palette displaying a plurality of
8 selectable user options, the options having functions associated with the current
9 operational context.

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11 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the current operational context is
12 selected from the plurality of operational contexts comprising at least two of the
13 following: a home context, a TV context, an Email context, an events context, a
14 settings & tips context, a movies context, an online context, a shortcut to services
15 context, a program guide context and a favorites context.

16
17 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein one of the user selectable options
18 has a function of providing help for the current operational context.

1 8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the current operational context
2 comprises a shortcut to services context; and wherein the user selectable options
3 provide at least the function of shifting to another available operational context.
4

5 9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the current operational context
6 comprises a shortcut to services context; and wherein the user selectable options
7 provide at least the function of shifting to another available operational context.
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9 10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the current operational context
10 comprises a settings & tips context; and wherein the user selectable options
11 provide at least the function of showing the user operational tips.
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13 11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the current operational context
14 comprises a settings & tips context; and wherein the user selectable options
15 provide at least the function of permitting the user to change operational settings.
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17 12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the current operational context
18 comprises a favorites context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at
19 least the functions of choosing a group of favorites, moving to a previous favorites
20 group, moving to a next favorites group, changing favorites and adding a channel
21 to a favorites group.
22

13. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

detecting a subsequent actuation of the pop-up option palette control; and

upon detecting the subsequent actuation of the pop-up option palette control,

removing the overlaying the image from the display screen.

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1 14. A storage media storing instructions which, when executed on a
2 programmed processor, carry out the steps of:

3 displaying an image on a display screen, the image being associated with
4 a current one of a plurality of operational contexts;

5 detecting actuation of a pop-up option palette control; and

6 upon detecting actuation of the pop-up option palette control, overlaying the
7 image on the display screen with a pop-up option palette displaying a plurality of
8 selectable user options, the options having functions associated with the current
9 operational context.
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11 15. The storage media according to claim 14, wherein the current operational
12 context is selected from the plurality of operational contexts comprising at least two
13 of the following: a home context, a TV context, an Email context, an events context,
14 a settings & tips context, a movies context, an online context, a shortcut to services
15 context, a program guide context and a favorites context.
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17 16. The storage media according to claim 14, further comprising: detecting a
18 subsequent actuation of the pop-up option palette control; and upon detecting the
19 subsequent actuation of the pop-up option palette control, removing the overlaying
20 image from the display screen.
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1 17. A set-top box, comprising:
2 a programmed processor;
3 a memory device storing an operating system, a browser program and a
4 pop-up option palette program to operate on the programmed processor;
5 means for displaying an image on a video display, the image being
6 associated with one of a plurality of operational contexts;
7 means for receiving user commands;
8 and wherein the pop-up option palette program operates to carry out the
9 process of:
10 detecting receipt of a pop-up option palette command; and
11 upon detecting receipt of the pop-up option palette command, overlaying the
12 image on the display screen with a pop-up option palette displaying a plurality of
13 selectable user options, the options having functions associated with the current
14 operational context.

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16 18. The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein the current operational
17 context is selected from the plurality of operational contexts comprising at least two
18 of the following: a home context, a TV context, an Email context, an events context,
19 a settings & tips context, a movies context, an online context, a shortcut to services
20 context, a program guide context and a favorites context.
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1 19. The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein one of the user selectable
2 options has a function of providing help for the current operational context.

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4 20. The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein the current operational
5 context comprises one of a home context, a program guide context, a TV context,
6 an Email context; and wherein the user selectable options provide at least the
7 functions of adding a current channel to a favorites list, printing to a printer, and
8 providing a shortcut to services.

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10 21. The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein the current operational
11 context comprises one of a settings & tips context and an events context; and
12 wherein the user selectable options provide at least the functions of providing a
13 shortcut to services and printing to a printer.

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15 22. The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein the current operational
16 context comprises a movies context; and wherein the user selectable options
17 provide at least the functions of playing a movie, rewinding a movie, forwarding a
18 movie and stopping the functions of playing, rewinding and forwarding.

1 23. The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein the current operational
2 context comprises an online context; and wherein the user selectable options
3 provide at least the functions of adding a page to a favorites list and initiating a
4 keyword search.

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6 24. The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein the current operational
7 context comprises a shortcut to services context; and wherein the user selectable
8 options provide at least the function of shifting to another available operational
9 context.

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11 25. The set-top box according to claim 24, wherein the current operational
12 context comprises a shortcut to services context; and wherein the user selectable
13 options provide at least the function of shifting to another available operational
14 context.

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16 26. The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein the current operational
17 context comprises a settings & tips context; and wherein the user selectable
18 options provide at least the function of showing the user operational tips.
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1 27. The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein the current operational
2 context comprises a settings & tips context; and wherein the user selectable
3 options provide at least the function of permitting the user to change operational
4 settings.

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6 28. The set-top box according to claim 17, wherein the current operational
7 context comprises a favorites context; and wherein the user selectable options
8 provide at least the functions of choosing a group of favorites, moving to a previous
9 favorites group, moving to a next favorites group, changing favorites and adding a
10 channel to a favorites group.

11
12 29. The set-top box according to claim 17, further comprising:
13 detecting a subsequent receipt of the pop-up option palette command; and
14 upon detecting the subsequent receipt of the pop-up option palette
15 command, removing the overlaying image from the display screen.
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1 30. A set-top box, comprising:
2 a programmed processor;
3 a memory device storing an operating system, a browser program and a
4 pop-up option palette program to operate on the programmed processor;
5 means for displaying an image on a video display, the image being
6 associated with one of a plurality of operational contexts;
7 means for receiving user commands;
8 and wherein the pop-up option palette program operates to carry out the
9 process of:
10 detecting receipt of a pop-up option palette command;
11 upon detecting receipt of the pop-up option palette command,
12 overlaying the image on the display screen with a pop-up option palette
13 displaying a plurality of selectable user options, the options having functions
14 associated with the current operational context;
15 wherein the current operational context is selected from the plurality
16 of operational contexts comprising at least a home context, a TV context, an
17 Email context, an events context, a settings & tips context, a movies context,
18 an online context, a shortcut to services context, a program guide context
19 and a favorites context;
20 wherein each of the plurality of user selectable options has a function
21 of providing help for the current operational context;

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1 wherein if the current operational context comprises a settings & tips
2 context; then the user selectable options provide at least the functions of
3 showing the user operational tips and permitting the user to change
4 operational settings; and

5 wherein if the current operational context comprises a favorites
6 context; then the user selectable options provide at least the functions of
7 choosing a group of favorites, moving to a previous favorites group, moving
8 to a next favorites group, changing favorites and adding a channel to a
9 favorites group;

10 detecting a subsequent receipt of the pop-up option palette command; and
11 upon detecting the subsequent receipt of the pop-up option palette
12 command, removing the overlaying the image from the display screen.
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